



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

11 FEBRUARY 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

23



DAILY BRIEF
11 FEBRUARY 1966

1. Vietnam

A Chinese Communist antiaircraft division has moved into North Vietnam.

Communications of the 103rd Anti-aircraft Division indicated late last month that the division was moving toward the Vietnamese border (Brief of 28 January). These communications now show that the division crossed the border opposite Ningming into North Vietnam, perhaps today (see map).

This marks the first time a Chinese Communist tactical unit has deployed into North Vietnam. Previous Chinese units were engineer and logistic, although some of them may have had antiaircraft elements attached.

The 103rd is one of 12 antiaircraft divisions attached to Peking's air force. It would have, at a minimum, three regiments for a total of just over 3,100 men. It would have at least 32 medium or heavy and 20 or more light antiaircraft pieces.

North Vietnam has at least 2,150 light, medium, and heavy antiaircraft guns, so the division's weapons would not add significantly to the total. They could, however, substantially increase air defenses in a limited area such as those occupied by some of China's own units.

2. South Vietnam

A Viet Cong tactical command which has been involved in all major Communist campaigns in the area north and east of Saigon has taken up positions near the capital of Phuoc Long Province (see map). While indications of this type do not always pan out, this could foreshadow a major Viet Cong move since all units have been directed to intensify activity by army day, 15 February.

3. Communist China

The leading Chinese Communist theoretical journal today gave the men in the Kremlin another violent tongue-lashing.

It was in fact Peking's harshest denunciation yet of the Soviet call for united Communist action on Vietnam. The journal asserted that the Chinese "will never take any united action with the leaders of the Soviet party so long as they continue their collusion with the US."

With an eye cocked at Hanoi, the journal argues that the only way to be successful in the struggle against the US is to operate independently of Moscow.

4. Communist China

The Chinese Communists are making steady progress in beefing up their international shipping facilities. They now have nearly 190 free world merchantmen under time charter--an increase of more than 50 ships within the past year. This, of course, is a reflection of Peking's booming trade with the free world, up about 25 percent in 1965, to over \$2.5 billion.

The Chinese are also acquiring more ships of their own. They have just bought a new cargo ship from East Germany and two used merchantmen from Norway. Last year they bought at least ten merchant ships and some eight more are on order from British, French, and East European shipyards. In all, China now has 24 ships, about three times the number in 1964.

5. France

The French satellite launch attempt was postponed this morning because of minor technical troubles. Another try is scheduled for early tomorrow.

6. Dominican Republic

Colonel Perez y Perez was sworn in as Minister of Defense this morning. After repeated postponements, Rivera is scheduled to leave the country tomorrow.

This development is the result of a lengthy meeting last night between the president and the military chiefs at which it was decided that Rivera would depart even though the rebel camp is not immediately dismantled.

Garcia Godoy is supposed to give the military chiefs a public guarantee that no further command changes are to take place as long as the chiefs remain "obedient and politically impartial." Late reports indicate, however, that the president is under heavy pressure to push for further removals.

The general strike continues to spread, but no major disturbances have been reported since daybreak. The director of the government-owned sugar corporation, the country's largest industry, says that all the corporation's mills are now shut down.

7. Bolivia

[redacted] Bolivia and the Soviet Union have started talks leading to the establishment of diplomatic relations. Bolivia recognized the Soviets in 1945, but an exchange of personnel did not follow. Presidential candidate Barrientos apparently sees this move as a way of increasing his popularity with the leftist-inclined Bolivian populace.

50X1

50X1

8. Indonesia

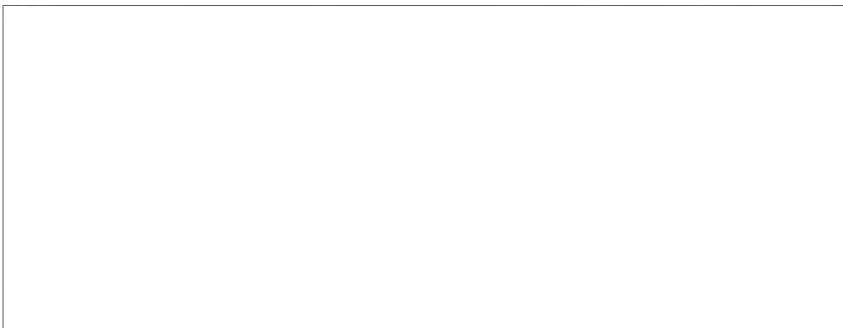
Sukarno continues to inch back into authority. The latest illustration of this comes from a behind-the-scenes announcement that the Supreme Operations Command will be disbanded within the next few days. The army tried briefly to build this organization into a super cabinet; their move failed but the command retained symbolic importance nevertheless as a sort of "shadow government."

Sukarno has also arranged to have the trials of the coup plotters next week held secretly rather than in public as the army had announced. This will deflate the army's plans to use the trials as a means of further discrediting the Communists.

9. Pakistan

The American consul in Peshawar reports that good rainfall in the key agricultural areas of northern West Pakistan during the past few days has stayed off a disaster in winter grain crops.

10. Mauritania



50X1

50X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET